Import of gold by bonafide passengers

879. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are proposing to allow the restricted import of Gold by the bonafide passengers returning from foreign countries;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) The Rangarajan Committee which examined the matters regarding the policy of gold has among other things recommended for review of the present ceiling on the aggregate value of gold jewellery that could be brought into India free of duty under the Transfer of Residence Rules, 1978 and Baggage Rules, 1978.

(c) Does not arise.

Smuggling of gold and heroin

880. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that smuggling of gold and heroin is on the increase;

(b) if so, what is the value of gold and heroin seized during the last two months; and

(c) what steps have been taken to curb the smuggling of gold and herein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) Since smuggling is a clandestine activity, it is not feasible to estimate the quantum of gold and heroin being smuggled into or out of the counrty. However, seizures of gold and heroin effected during the last few years, as shown in the table below, indicate an upward trend. This need not necessarily be on account of a spurt in smuggling and could be due to more effective anti-smuggling measures:-

(in kgs) (Rs in crores)

Year	Gold		Heroin
	Quantity	Valu	(in Kgs
1986	2174	46.67	2537
1987	2255	65.78	2779
1988 (up to 31st October)	4070*	130.69*	2613*

*Figures are provisional.

(b) The quantity and value of gold and heroin seized during the two months of September and October 1988 are given below:-

Gold		Heroin
Value (Rs. in crores)	Quantity (in Kgs.)	(in Kg.)
27.11	839	738

Figures are provisional.

(c) The anti-smuggling drive has been intensified and the anti-smuggling machinery throughout the country especially in the vulnerable areas of the land borders, coastline and the international airports and seaports has been geared up. Close co-ordination is being maintained between all the agencies concerned in the detection and prevention of smuggling. Sophisticated equipment like X-ray baggage machines, metal detectors, night vision binoculars are being increasingly used. Additional legal measures have also been taken for preventing the smuggling of heroin and the Parliament has enacted a law for the prevention of illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances with effect from 4th July, 1988.

Income-tax dues of film stars

881. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of film stars owe huge amounts of money towards income-tax;

(b) if so, what are the names thereof and also the details of the amount owed by each of them as on 31st October, 1988;

(c) what are the reasons for which the arrears of income-tax could not be recovered from them; and

(d) what steps Government have taken to recover the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir, As per the latest information available, as on 30.6.88 there were sixty-one film stars who owed income-tax of more than Rs. 1 lakh each.

(b) The names and details of amounts owed by them, are given in the Statement attached (See below).

(c) and (d) The reasons for non-recovery of arrears vary from case to case. Most of the demands are disputed in appeals or, are pending before Settlement Commission. Consequently, in some cases, recovery has been stayed by various authorities and courts or instalment facility has been granted. In other cases, steps for recovery like attachment of debts due from third parties and issue of recovery certificates to Tax Recovery Officer for attachment/sale of assets etc. have been taken. These steps are an on-going process and it takes time before actual recovery is effected. Recovery action in all these cases is periodically monitored by senior officers of the level of Commissioner of Income-tax. Action plan targets have also been laid down for overall recovery of arrears.

Statement

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Name of the Assessee Sri/Smt./Kum	Gross Demand
Amjad Khan	77.09
C.R. Vijay Kumari	3.50
C. Suhasini Hassan	1.39
Deepti Naval	5.37
Dimple Khanna	8.37
Feroz Khan	1.79
G. Madhavi	12.00
G. Mahesh Babu	2.85
G. Sairtri	6.84
G.S.R. Krishnamurthy	9 72
G. Vijaya Nirmala	5.92
Hema Malini	8.91
Jitendra Kapoor	16 13
J. Jamuna	1.11
Kadar Khan	5 91
Kamaluddin Kazi	5 32